

I supposed you did not wish a formal Opinion  
Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,  
MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1884.

Col. A. I. Snowden,

Dear Sir,

From the appearance, and other properties of the so-called Gold Grain Deposit, I inferred that it consisted grains of iron-dust, agglutinated by shellac or other resinous material, then roughly granulated, by hammer or otherwise, and rolled in gold leaf, whether whole sheets or fragments. It is probable that hot alcohol, or possibly turpentine & oil, one or both, may dissolve away the resins or pitch, — leaving gold & iron. Then muriatic acid, or dilute sulphuric will dissolve the iron, and the ~~good~~ gold to be melted, with a little borax into a button of good gold.

Respectfully yours

J. C. Booth

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Jas. C. Booth